

Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 SEP 2004

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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REC'D 28 MAY 2004

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9432-182/POA	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US03/09883	International filing date (day/month/year) 31 March 2003 (31.03.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 05 April 2002 (05.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 3/00, 13/00; H04N 7/00, 11/00 and US Cl.: 725/39-59; 348/552		
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

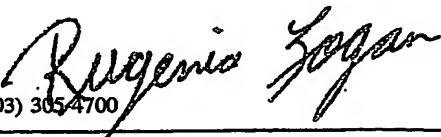
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 31 October 2003 (31.10.2003)	Date of completion of this report 12 May 2004 (12.05.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer Andrew Faile Telephone No. (703) 305-4700 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/098**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-28</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-28</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-28</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Please See Continuation Sheet

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/US03/09883

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

the international application as originally filed.

the description:

pages 1-9 as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

the claims:

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages 10-13, filed with the letter of 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004)

the drawings:

pages 1-6, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages NONE, as originally filed

pages NONE, filed with the demand

pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in printed form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages NONE

the claims, Nos. NONE

the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORTInternational Application No.
PCT/US03/09883**Supplemental Box**
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)**V. 2. Citations and Explanations:**

Regarding the amendment dated 30 March 2004, the examiner notes that Allport still reads on the additional limitations of providing multi-level links as amended in independent claims 1 and 19. See Column 12, Lines 30-41 for sending a list of web pages to the user's display device, these clearly represent multi-level links that are used to display additionally detailed data, related, or unrelated to the video program being displayed.

Claims 1-28 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Allport (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,441).

Referring to claim 1, Allport discloses a handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic program guide (see Figures 1-2).

Allport also discloses an input adapted to receive a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal, wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content (see Column 12, Lines 9-17).

Allport also discloses a synchronization engine adapted to create a link associating the program identification with additional information relating to the available media content (see element 75 in Figure 2 and Column 12, Lines 29-34).

Referring to claim 2, see element 145 in Figure 3 for a data request module for identifying the additional information at a remote location on a communication network.

Referring to claim 3, see lack of novelty of claim 2, and note Column 12, Lines 15-17 for the information being related to program.

Referring to claim 4, see element 95 in Figure 3 for a remote location to receive additional information (HTML data).

Referring to claim 5, see Column 7, Lines 61-67 for an HTML browser.

Referring to claim 6, see lack of novelty of claim 5, and again note that information in the VBI is related to the program displayed (see Column 12, Lines 15-17).

Referring to claim 7, see Column 8, Lines 5-16 for allowing a user to select the channel he/she desires.

Referring to claim 8, see Column 7, Lines 59-67 and Column 8, Lines 1-4 for swamping information on a display (displaying additional information from HTML received at the receiver) onto two displays.

Referring to claim 9-10, see lack of novelty of claim 8.

Referring to claim 11, see Column 7, Lines 36-58 for creating a program guide (ads) and element 85 in Figure 2 for sending the video source.

Referring to claims 12-13, see lack of novelty of claim 11. Note that it is well known to scan or parse through multiple sources in order to create a program guide.

Referring to claim 14, see lack of novelty of claim 11 and note that it is well-known to locate a program list to create a program guide.

Referring to claim 15, see lack of novelty of claim 11 and note it is well known to choose the most recent time and date stamped source in order to compile a program guide.

Referring to claim 16, see again Column 7, Lines 59-67.

Referring to claim 17, see lack of novelty of claim 16.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORTInternational Application No.
PCT/US03/09883**Supplemental Box**
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Referring to claim 18, it is well known to receive EPG data before the user requests to use the EPG. Allport also discloses a user interface adapted to communicate the additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the link (see Column 6, Lines 49-54).
Referring to claims 19-26, see lack of novelty of claims 1-7 and 10, respectively.
Referring to claims 27-28, see lack of novelty of claim 10.

Claims 1-28 have industrial applicability under PCT Article 33(4) because the handheld device can be made or used in the remote control industry.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----**NONE**

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic programming guide, comprising:

5 an input adapted to receive a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal, wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content;

10 a synchronization engine adapted to create multilevel links associating the program identification with multiple levels of additional information relating to the available media content, wherein at least one level of the additional information is acquired from a disparate content source, and the multilevel links are synchronized to successively lead to progressively more detailed levels of the additional information; and

15 a user interface adapted to communicate the multiple levels of additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the multilevel links.

2. The device of claim 1, comprising a data request module adapted to identify the additional information at a remote location on a communications network.

20 3. The device of claim 1, comprising a data request module adapted to request the additional information from a remote location over a communications network based on the program identification.

4. The device of claim 1, comprising a portal input adapted to receive the additional information from a remote location over a communications network.

25 5. The device of claim 1, comprising a web browser adapted to store the additional information in a memory of the handheld device.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said user interface is adapted to communicate the program identification to the consumer.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said user interface is adapted to detect a selection of the program identification by the consumer.

30 8. The device of claim 7, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted, upon detecting the selection, to retrieve the additional information from a

location in memory of the handheld device via a link between the program identification and the location.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted, upon detecting the selection, to retrieve the additional information from a remote location over a communications system via a link between the program identification and the remote location.

10. The device of claim 7, comprising:

retrieving the additional information from a location via a link between the program identification and the location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting; and

communicating the additional information to the consumer in response to said detecting.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to create an electronic program guide data structure and source data structure.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to build the electronic program guide data structure by scanning available source devices in the source data structure.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to parse content of the source devices and construct the electronic program guide data structure based on the content.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to locate a program list view providing a first level of programming guide information including channels and programs of the electronic program guide data structure.

15. The device of claim 14, scans available sources to determine if multiple sources exist, to select a source with a most recent date and time stamp, and to retrieve content from a selected source.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to construct an electronic program guide view on a display of the device, and to provide a hyperlink on the display to a second level of electronic program guide information.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein said synchronization engine is adapted to create a subsequent hyperlink directing the user to a third level of electronic program guide information.

18. The device of claim 16, wherein said synchronization engine is
5 adapted to download electronic program guide contents to the device prior to a user request for electronic program guide contents.

19. A method of operation for a handheld device employing disparate sources to provide an electronic programming guide, comprising:

receiving a program identification extracted from a broadcast signal,
10 wherein the program identification is adapted to identify available media content;

creating multilevel links associating the program identification with multiple levels of additional information relating to the available media content, wherein at least one level of the additional information is acquired from a disparate content source, and the multilevel links are synchronized to
15 successively lead to progressively more detailed levels of the additional information; and

communicating the multiple levels of additional information in association with the program identification to a consumer based on the multilevel links.

20. The method of claim 19, comprising identifying the additional information at a remote location on a communications network.

21. The method of claim 19, comprising requesting the additional information from a remote location over a communications network based on the program identification.

25. The method of claim 19, comprising receiving the additional information from a remote location over a communications network.

23. The method of claim 19, comprising storing the additional information in a memory of the handheld device.

24. The method of claim 11, comprising communicating the program
30 identification to the consumer.

25. The method of claim 24, comprising detecting a selection of the program identification by the consumer.

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26. The method of claim 25, comprising retrieving the additional information from a location in memory of the handheld device via a link between the program identification and the location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting.

5 27. The method of claim 25, comprising retrieving the additional information from a remote location over a communications system via a link between the program identification and the remote location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting.

28. The method of claim 25, comprising:

10 retrieving the additional information from a location via a link between the program identification and the location, wherein said retrieving occurs in response to said detecting; and

communicating the additional information to the consumer in response to said detecting.